

SUGGESTED TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL DATA DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS
GENERAL OBSERVATION DATA TABLES

Field Title	Field Name	Field Type/Size	Field Explanation
-------------	------------	-----------------	-------------------

DATE / TIME

Observation Date	ObsDate	Date	Date of the observation. Use format of <i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>
Time of Observation	ObsTime	Char.(9)	Time, or span of time, when the observation was made.
Observation Year	ObsYear	Char.(4)	Year in which the observation(s) was made.
Date of first observation	DateFirst	Date	Date of first known positive observation at this site, ever or during the survey year depending upon the time period covered by the database records.
Date of last known observation	DateLast	Date	Date of last known positive observation at this site, ever or during the survey year depending upon the time period covered by the database records.

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Taxonomic Order	TaxOrder	Char.(2)	From 2nd character in NDDB ELMCODE = (M, B, R, A, & F)
Species Name	Sname	Char.(60)	Scientific name recognized at the Department level.
Common Name	Cname	Char.(60)	Common name recognized at the Department level.
ID Confidence	IDCnfidnc	Char.(15)	How confident the observer is of the Species ID. – Very confident, Confident, Not-so-confident

BEHAVIOR

Activity or behavior of animal at time of observation.	Behavior	Char.(30)	Activity exhibited at time of observation: courtship, foraging, hibernation/torpor, incubation, mating, nest building, roosting, soaring, territory defense. Multiple choices allowed. See choices below.
--	----------	-----------	--

SITE IDENTIFICATION

Site/Territory ID	SiteID	Char.(10-20)	Unique identifier for each site, territory or location.
Activity Center	ActCent	Char.(1)	An"x" indicates this observation is the basis for the current activity center; the reference for the point feature based on the observation history and species' biology.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATION DATA

How observed	ObsMethod	Char.(10)	Method of observation of individuals at this site. See choices below.
Observation notes	ObsNotes	Char.(255)	Observation Notes
Observation document reference	DocSource	Char.(20)	The data contributor's Document ID number/designation/source in the contributor's files, for this observation.
Photo reference	PhotoID		File system for photo identification.
Specimen reference			Another table probably needed.

Key to Colors

Fields required in all data sets.
Highly recommended fields to be included in all data sets or included in the metadata.

CHOICE LOOK-UP TABLES
GENERAL OBSERVATION TABLES

Behaviors		
	Choice Name	Choice Definition
	basking	Resting in a sunny location.
	begging	A young animals behavior to solicit food from an adult or parent.
	birthing	The act of giving birth.
	courtship/pair formation	One or more animals displaying to other animals for the purpose of mating.
	feeding/foraging	Seeking, obtaining, and eating food.
	hibernation/torpor	Animals in hibernation or a state of torpor.
	incubation	Birds sitting on eggs.
	mating	Animals copulating or otherwise transferring genetic material.
	nest building	Animals creating a place for the laying of eggs.
	roosting	Birds or bats perched for resting or sleeping.
	soaring	Bird(s) soaring at a relatively localized site during the breeding season or in migration.
	territorial defense	Animals defending themselves or their territory from other animals of the same or different species.
	wallowing	Wading or rolling in mud.

Observation Methods		
	Choice Name	Choice Definition
	B	Electric bat identifier
	C	Captured/trapped
	CS	Check station
	D	Dead
	E	Excrememt
	F	Feather
	H	Heard
	P	Photograph
	Pel	Pellet
	S	Seen
	TL	Telemetry
	TK	Tracks
	V	Specimen - museum or live mount.